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A PROCLAMATION

Against the Importing of Irish Viſtual, Cattel, Horſes, and Mares, &c.



H A R L E S, by the grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith: To
Masters, or Messengers at Arms, Our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly and severally, specially constitute, Greeting, Forasmuch, as We and
Estates of Parliament, by several Acts, Have, upon weighty Considerations, discharged the importation of Irish Viſtual and Cattel into this Kingdome
under the pains and certifications therein contained. As also, The Lords of Our Privy Council, have emitted several Acts and Proclamations
pursuance of the saids Acts of Parliament; Notwithstanding whereof, and of all the cares and endeavours taken, to prevent the importing of
Viſtual and Cattel, the same is imported into this Kingdome: And considering, the best and fittest way for preventing thereof, may be to commission
some persons of power and interest, in the several places of the Countrey, where the said Viſtual and Cattel is ordinarily brought in, and landed: We the
fore with advice of the Lords of Our Privy Council, have thought fit to grant full Power, Authority and Commission, to Robert Campbel, brother to the Laird of Ardkinglass,
John Boyle of Kelburn, and James Dumbarton of Mochrum, by themselves, their Deputes, Servants, and such as they shall think fit to appoint (for whom they
be answerable) To search for, seize and apprehend, all Irish Viſtual, and Cattel, and salt Beef, made thereof, as shall be imported from Ireland into this Kingdome
in the particular places after-specified, (viz.) The said Robert Campbel, brother to the Laird of Ardkinglass, in all places from Lochlung, to the mule of Kintyre, and
about the same, The said John Boyle of Kelburn, in all places from the burgh of Glasgow, to the march of Galloway, on the south: and from Glasgow to Leith
on the north, and the Isles of Arran, Bute and Comra, and the said James Dumbarton of Mochrum, in all places from the March of Galloway, to the March of Nith
Which Viſtual so imported, the saids Commissioners and these intrusted by them, are thereby authorized and required, to cause Stave, Sink, and Destroy, and to Burn
Boats, Barkes, and Vessells, in which the same shall be found to be imported. And for the more ready and effectual prosecution of that Our Commission, We
Granted full Power and Authority, to Our saids Commissioners, by themselves, their Deputes, servants, and such as they shall think fit to intrust in the respective
bounds foresaid, To secure all Barks, or travelling Boats, whether Scots or Irish, untill the Skippers or owners shall find caution that they shall import no Irish Viſtual or
Cattel hereafter. The saids Commissioners, and their foresaid, are thereby also authorized, to search all Boats, Barkes, or other Vessells, wherein any Irish Viſtual or
are suspected to be; And in case they find any of the said prohibited goods, therein; To burne the said Boats, Barkes, or Vessells; and to Stave, Sink, and
Destroy the Viſtual: And for the better discovery thereof, all Merchants, Skippers and Owners of Boats, or other Vessells, travelling to and from the places foresaid,
hereby ordered, before they break bulk, or liver any goods, To Advise the saids Commissioners, or these intrusted by them, at one or other of the Ports
(viz.) At the point of Garvel, near Greenock, the towns of Largs, Irvine, Turnberry, Dumbarton, Kilmory, and Briddish, Dinnon, Tarbat, Campbeltown,
Portpatrick, Glenluce, and Kirkcudburgh: (at which ports, Officers are established to receive the saids advertisements,) under the pain of confiscation of
ships, and Goods, and being holden as confessed Importers, of Irish Viſtual; Provided that the Skippers or Owners, shall not upon such occasion, be obliged to
enter then one Tides water; If upon pregnant presumptions, the saids Commissioners, or these entrusted by them, shall suspect any persons guilty of importing
Viſtual, or Cattell, They are thereby authorized, to convene any such person or persons, before the nearest Magistrate, in Burgh or Landward: And to lead all
probation against them for proving thereof; whereupon, the saids Magistrates are to give present and ready justice: All Sheriffs, Stewarts, Baylies of Regality,
Barronies, and all Heretors, are thereby ordered, to give their speedy and ready assistance to the saids Commissioners, and these entrusted by them, when ever they
be required, either for searching of Vessells by night or day, making open and patent Doors, searching of Cellars, or other suspect places, for Irish Viſtual or
Cattel, which they are thereby Authorized to do: As also, the Officers of any Garrison, are obliged to concur and assist, with any party of Souldiers, as they shall be
upon any extraordinary occasion: The saids Commissioners, or these entrusted by them, are thereby impower'd, with consent of the Magistrate of the place, to
person to prison, that shall be found guilty of contravening the Laws, or contumacious in refusing to depone, (the Magistrates of the place, being always free of the
charges.) In which case, the Magistrates are to secure the prisoners, and their Vessells, and to be accountable for them: The saids Commissioners and their foresaid are
Impowred to secure all Barkes, travelling Boats, or other Vessells laden with Meal, which shall happen to come within the saids bounds, untill a Certificat be produced
from the Owners, that such Barkes, Boats or Vessells are come from some port in Scotland, and that the Viſtual is of Scots growth, Upon the verity whereof, the Masters
Company are to give their Oathes in presence of the saids Commissioners, or these entrusted by them, or the nearest Magistrate. Likeas, We with advice foresaid,
Granted full Power, Authority and Commission to the saids Commissioners & these entrusted by them, to search for and seize upon all such Irish Viſtual, as they shall be
med has been lately imported into this Kingdome, and to Stave, Sink and Destroy the same as aforesaid: As also, to search for, seize and apprehend all Irish Horſes and
which shall happen to be imported into this Kingdome, wherever the same can be found within the foresaid bounds, and to value and comprize the same: the one half
to be made forth-coming to the Commissioners of Our Treasury for Our use, and the other half to the saids Commissioners or those entrusted by them, conforme to a former
Proclamation of Our Privy Council, in the moneth of April, 1668. And in case any person or persons shall make open resistance against the saids Commissioners, or these entrusted
by them, in the execution of Our said Commission, and that thereupon there shall happen blood-shed, mutilation or slaughter to follow through the said resistance, it is declared
that The saids Commissioners or these entrusted by, or giving assistance to them, shall never be called in question or pursued therefore, civilly or criminally in time coming. And
which Commission, is declared to begin and take effect from and after the said first day of January next, and to continue and endure untill the first day of January
1681. years; and further, that Our said Commission shall no wayes free or liberat the Importers or Resellers of Irish Viſtual, Cattel, Horſes or Mares, upon
ground the same shall be Imported, but that they shall continue still lyable to the pains and penalties appointed by the saids Acts of Parliament and Council, as if
said Commission had never been granted, to be applyed, in the first place to the relief of the saids Commissioners, in so far as they shall pay the said summes engaged for
them in manner foresaid. And to the effect, all Our Leidges and others concerned may have due and timeous notice of the same: We have thought fit, that these Our
of Publication thereof should be direct. OUR Will is herefore, And We charge you straitly and Command, that incontinent, these Our Letters seen, ye pass to
Mercat Crosses of of the head Burghs, and of the Shires of this Kingdom, and other places needful, and there, in Our Name and Authority, by open Proclamation, make
cation of the Premises, that all Our Leidges may have Notice thereof, and give Obedience thereto, as they will be answerable on their Highest peril. Given under
Signet, at Edinburgh, the eighteenth day of December, One thousand six hundred seventy and nine years, and of Our Reign, the thirtieth one year.

Per Aſſum Dominorum Secreti Conſilii,

WIL. PATERSON, Cl. Sti. Concilii.

GOD save the King.